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Letter dated 31 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 31 October 2007, addressed to you by Kemal Gökeri, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the letter and its enclosure could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 22, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-58284 (E) 091107

Annex to the letter dated 31 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith a copy of the letter dated 30 October 2007 addressed to you by Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see enclosure).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 22, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. Kemal **Gökeri**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

30 October 2007

I have the honour to refer to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Tassos Papadopoulos, at the sixty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 26 September 2007 in his purported capacity as the "President of the Republic of Cyprus", and to respond as follows.

We, once again, have witnessed in the statement the distortion by the Greek Cypriot leadership of the historical facts as well as the current realities of Cyprus before the General Assembly. Needless to say, the Cyprus problem is not one of "invasion" and "occupation" as the Greek Cypriot leader likes to portray, but a political problem between the two peoples of Cyprus, namely Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots, who were the co-founder partners of the 1960 Republic of Cyprus until 1963 when the Greek Cypriot partner monopolized the state by ejecting Turkish Cypriots from all organs of the state machinery in accordance with a premeditated plan, namely the *Akritas Plan* (see A/33/115-S/12722 dated 30 May 1978). The atrocities perpetrated against the Turkish Cypriots, who resisted this attempted takeover aimed at the annexation of the island to Greece (*Enosis*) — expressly and explicitly prohibited by the International Cyprus Treaties establishing the 1960 Republic of Cyprus — are well-recorded in the annals of the United Nations as well as in the international media. Therefore, when Mr. Papadopoulos makes references to terms such as "enclaved", "missing persons", "refugees" and "human right violations" in Cyprus, he should remember that these indeed are the terms defining the conditions under which the Turkish Cypriots were forced to live between the years 1963 and 1974 at the hands of the Greek Cypriot armed elements.

Having set the record straight, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that each consecutive year, the statements of the Greek Cypriot leader before the Assembly become more and more distant from the realities of the Cyprus problem as well as the international efforts towards a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus. This year, for example, he went as far as claiming that and I quote: "... *efforts to solve the Cyprus problem have not been filtered through a system of values and norms of international law*". This is a clear attempt to do away with the well-established United Nations parameters and the body of work for the settlement of the Cyprus problem that came into being in 40 years of negotiations under the auspices of the successive Secretaries-General of the United Nations. This, unfortunately, is a result of the acquiescence of the international community to the maximalist and counterproductive policies and rhetoric of the Greek Cypriot leadership.

Such statements of the Greek Cypriot leadership, naturally, do not bode well for future efforts for a settlement. In this speech, he once again undermined your good offices mission by continuously referring to Turkey as his counterpart in the search for a settlement in Cyprus and made no reference to the Turkish Cypriot side in this regard. I am of the view that the Greek Cypriot leadership should be reminded by the United Nations that the mission of good offices of the United Nations Secretary-General concerns and involves the two sides in Cyprus. His remarks are more meaningful when read together with the statement of his Spokesperson, Mr. Vassilis Palmas who is on record as saying that "*We [the Greek Cypriot side] never claimed that Mr. Papadopoulos and Mr. Talat are in a position*

to solve the Cyprus problem, what we are saying is that any contact can contribute in a positive direction" (Greek Cypriot Official News Agency (CNA), 19 September 2007).

Mr. Papadopoulos also referred to the efforts for a settlement as "*a constitutional arrangement set up primarily on the basis of ethnic origin*", which he is also against. The Greek Cypriot leadership should be cautioned that the efforts for a settlement are aimed at the establishment of a new partnership on the basis of well-established United Nations parameters, such as political equality, equal status and bizonality. It has never been and it will never be an exercise of a constitutional arrangement through which Turkish Cypriots are to be patched up to the "Republic of Cyprus" and absorbed by it through osmosis.

In the same statement, Mr. Papadopoulos asked and I quote: "*So why does this problem persist after so many years during which the national, regional and international political landscape has undergone dramatic changes?*" as if he was not the Greek Cypriot leader who, after paying so much lip service to the Annan Plan before securing unilateral European Union membership, had made a drastic change of policy and called on his people for a "resounding no vote" to the United Nations Comprehensive Settlement Plan in a very sentimental televised address two weeks before the separate simultaneous referendums on 24 April 2004. Mr. Günter Verheugen, the then European Union Commissioner responsible for enlargement is on record as saying that "*I feel personally cheated by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus*" (Mr. Verheugen's statement before the European Parliament on 21 April 2004). Hence, Mr. Papadopoulos's effort to conceal the fact that he has the sole responsibility for the continuation of the Cyprus problem is not at all successful.

He also claims in his statement that the Plan had satisfied all Turkish *desiderata*, and that is why it was readily accepted by the Turkish side. Let me remind Mr. Papadopoulos that as the former United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan put it, the Turkish Cypriots voted in favour of the Plan "*notwithstanding the significant sacrifices that it entailed for many of them*" (statement issued by the Spokesman of the Secretary-General on 24 April 2004 on the outcome of the referendums in Cyprus (S/2004/437, annex). It seems that Mr. Papadopoulos does not want to accept the fact that any settlement requires compromises from all sides.

It is very unfortunate that the Greek Cypriot leadership denies even the existence of the isolations and restrictions on the Turkish Cypriot people, in complete disregard of the fact that international organizations like the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe and the Organization of the Islamic Conference as well as individual States have called for the lifting of the isolations. It does not instil confidence in the Turkish Cypriot people regarding the sincerity of the Greek Cypriot leadership towards a fair and mutually acceptable settlement in Cyprus when the Greek Cypriot leadership denies the existence of the isolations on the one hand and tries to prevent any attempt aimed at the lifting of the isolations of the Turkish Cypriot people on the other. It has become in the past few years a practice for the Greek Cypriot leader to give the General Assembly economic figures and rankings vis-à-vis the Turkish Cypriot economy in a futile attempt to prove that isolations do not exist. Any relative improvement in the Turkish Cypriot economy is a direct result of our pro-solution policies approved and

supported by the international community as a whole. It would be rather more informative if the Greek Cypriot leader next year gives the Assembly a comparative analysis of the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot economies and explains the huge gap between the two economies on this small island.

Similarly, one cannot take the Greek Cypriot side seriously when it proposes confidence-building measures in the island while at the same time it continues to block, with all means at its disposal, any attempt aimed at lifting the isolations. I believe that it is high time for the international community, particularly the United Nations and the European Union, to act on its decisions and promises and lift the isolations of the Turkish Cypriot people without further delay. As I stated on numerous occasions, lifting the isolations is not an end in itself, but will also be conducive to a settlement in the island by bridging the economic gap between the two sides, leading to a smoother unification of the island in the event of a settlement. It would be remembered that one of the arguments used by the Greek Cypriot leadership for rejecting the Annan Plan was the claim that the Greek Cypriot people would be burdened with the economic cost of the settlement.

As regards the exploitation of the natural resources on and around the island of Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot leadership should be reminded that these belong to all inhabitants of the island of Cyprus. Such unilateral initiatives, taken in complete disregard of the legitimate rights of the Turkish Cypriots, are another proof of the fact that the Greek Cypriot leadership is not seeking an early solution to the Cyprus problem. Otherwise, it would not have taken unilateral steps that would not be conducive to a comprehensive settlement. Such issues could easily be jointly taken up after the solution of the Cyprus problem. This is another indication that the priority of the Greek Cypriot leadership is not the solution of the Cyprus problem, but the further exploitation and consolidation of its usurped title as the "Government of the Republic of Cyprus".

In his statement, the Greek Cypriot leader claims that he is committed to the implementation of the 8 July process, but continues to reject my proposal put forward to this end during our meeting on 5 September 2007. In this meeting, aware of the fact that 14 months had already passed without any progress in the 8 July process, I proposed that after a preparation period of two and a half months to be carried out within the framework of the 8 July process, the full-fledged negotiations between the two leaders start and the working groups as well as the technical committees continue to work parallel to full-fledged negotiations. I was open to any alternative date that Mr. Papadopoulos might suggest for the start of the full-fledged negotiations, but he preferred to reject the whole idea that there should be any time limits in the process. My proposal continues to remain on the table. I sincerely believe that it can pave the way not only for the implementation of the 8 July process, but also for the comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem in the shortest possible time. I also hope that Mr. Papadopoulos will positively respond to our package of confidence-building measures entitled "Turkish Cypriot revised package of proposals on confidence-building measures" (A/62/499-S/2007/625) which I put forward during my meeting with you on 16 October 2007.

In the statement, Mr. Papadopoulos asserts that "*a functional and enduring solution is not one that flows from a simplistic formula that merely reflects the power balance of the parties*". This is, indeed, the kind of solution that the Greek Cypriot leadership is seeking by exploiting its advantageous position vis-à-vis the

Turkish Cypriot side as the "Government of the Republic of Cyprus" and member of the European Union. It was with this mentality that Mr. Papadopoulos proposed before the Assembly in 2005 the assimilation of Turkish Cypriots in the European Union member "Republic of Cyprus" through osmosis. This is also why the Greek Cypriot leadership is against any improvement in the daily lives of the Turkish Cypriot people. In their view, the isolations on the Turkish Cypriot people should be consolidated until the gap between the two sides is wide enough for the Greek Cypriot side to impose its terms for a settlement on the Turkish Cypriot side without much resistance. Turkish Cypriots will never accept such an imposition.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our firm commitment to the comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem under the auspices of your good offices mission and on the basis of the United Nations Settlement Plan of 31 March 2004.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 22, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet **Ali Talat**
President